

Message Text

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SUBJ: THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA

REF: MOSCOW 11867

1. SUMMARY. JUDGING FROM HIS LENGTHY SPEECH AT THE JULY GEORGIAN CC PLENUM, SHEVARDNADZE IS STILL IN CHARGE OF THE GEORGIAN CP. YET A "ZARYA VOSTOKA" EITORIAL ON THE LOCAL CC PLENUM SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE EVENT DID NOT MENTION THE GEORGIAN FIRST SECRETARY, AND, AS NOTED REFTEL, PRAVDA'S ACCOUNT OF THE PLENUM DEVOTED RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION TO HIM. IN ANY CASE, SHEVARDNADZE'S SPEECH, HIGHLIGHTED BELOW, PROVIDES A WEALTH OF DETAIL ABOUT GEORGIA'S CURRENT ILLS, AMONG THE SPEAKERS AT THE PLENUM WAS GEORGIAN WRITER R.A. DZHAPARIDZE, WHO IS REPORTED BY ZARYA VOSTOKA AS PARTIALLY RECANTING HIS CONTROVERSIAL OUTBURST AT THE GEORGIAN WRITERS' CONGRESS IN APRIL. MEANWHILE, WE CONTINUE TO HEAR RUMORS OF VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC. END SUMMARY.

2. AMONG THE CURRENT CROP OF ROMORS ABOUT GEORGIA:

-- AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY CONTACT WHO FREQUENTLY TRAVELS TO GEORGIA TOLD US LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD JUST
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RETURNED TO MOSCOW FROM A TWO-WEEK STAY IN GEORGIA AND

FOUND THAT GENERAL SITUATION "MUCH TIGHTER" THAN IN RECENT MONTHS;

-- THE SAME SOURCE SAID HE HEARD THAT SHEVARDNADZE'S SON, A STUDENT AT TBILISI UNIVERSITY, WAS RECENTLY SERIOUSLY INJURED DURING AN ATTACK AGAINST HIM BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS ARMED WITH KNIVES;

-- HE ALSO REPORTED THAT A MAJOR EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN DOWNTOWN KUTAISI ON JULY 22 OR 23.

3. THESE RUMORS ARE NOT OUT OF KEEPING WITH THE PICTURE OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE IN GEORGIA PRESENTED BY SHEVARDNADZE IN HIS LENGTHY (ALMOST FIVE PAGES OF SMALL PRINT IN ZARYA VOSTOKA JULY 25) SPEECH AT THE JULY 24-25 GEORGIAN CC PLENUM. FOR EXAMPLE:

-- A UNITED FRONT OF STRUGGLE AGAINST CRIME MUST BE CREATED AND STRENGTHENED, BECAUSE "WE HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN ATTAINING STABILITY IN THIS STRUGGLE;"

-- IN PARTICULAR, THE PROBLEM OF "THE MORAL CLEANLINESS" OF WORKERS IN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS (I.E., THE MVD AND KGB) HAS BECOME VITAL;

-- WHILE A MAJORITY OF GEORGIANS ARE HONORABLE, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH: "WE NEED HONORABLE WARRIORS, NOT HONORABLE OBSERVERS."

4. SHEVARDNADZE'S GENERAL LINE WAS THAT THE RECENT CPSU CC RESOLUTION ON GEORGIA WAS A NET PLUS FOR THE GEORGIAN CP, ALTHOUGH ALL THAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE REPUBLIC SINCE 1972 PROVIDED ONLY THE FOUNDATION FOR LAUNCHING A MORE INTENSIVE AND EXTENSIVE ATTACK ON THE REPUBLIC'S MANY PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT THE 1974 AS WELL AS THE 1976 CC CPSU RESOLUTIONS WERE ENACTED AT THE PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF LEONID I'LIKH BREZHNEV, WHO, IN ADDITION TO HIS ENORMOUS EFFORTS IN FOREIGN POLICY, FOLLOWS "A GREAT FLOW OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN EACH REPUBLIC, IN EACH BRANCH OF THE ECONOMY, IN SOCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND POLITICAL LIFE." IN PARTICULARLY INTERESTING PASSAGE, SHEVARDNADZE DISCLOSED THAT NOT EVERYONE INTERPRETED THE CURRENT CPSU CC DECREE AS PRAISE FOR THE GEORGIAN CP.

-- "THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION WAS GIVEN AT A SESSION OF THE CC CPSU SECRETARIAT," HE SAID, "WHERE IT WAS NOTED THAT, FIRST, MUCH HAS BEEN DONE, AND SECOND, ONE MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SITUATION WE FACED AT THE

OUTSET, OF THE BACKGROUND AGAINST WHICH WE COMMENCED THE STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME SHORTCOMINGS."

5. SHEVARDNADZE OUTLINED A FAMILIAR ARRAY OF ECONOMIC ILLS, MENTIONING IN PARTICULAR THAT:

-- MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT WAS GROSSLY UNDER-UTILIZED (FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EQUIPMENT IS EITHER IDLE OR OUT OF ORDER ALMOST 40 PERCENT OF THE TIME);

-- THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF GEORGIAN AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR A WHOPPING 45 PERCENT OF TOTAL OUTPUT;

-- IN SEVERAL CASES, CREATION OF INDUSTRIAL AMALGAMATIONS HAS CAUSED A SIGNIFICANT DOWNTURN IN THE WORK OF THE COMPONENT PRODUCTION UNITS.

6. SHEVARDNADZE DID NOT MINCE WORDS IN DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENT OF "INTERNATIONALISM" AMONG THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE. WE MUST, HE SAID, PERFECT THE TEACHING AND STUDY OF RUSSIAN, THE LANGUAGE OF "INTERNATIONAL TIES AND SPIRITUAL MUTUAL ENRICHMENT OF ALL SOVIET PEOPLES." THIS WORK MUST BE CONDUCTED MORE INTENSIVELY, SO THAT RUSSIAN BECOMES THE "SECOND NATIVE LANGUAGE" FOR EACH OF US.

7. ANOTHER SPEAKER, TBILISI GORKOM FIRST SECRETARY MENTESHASHVILI, SPOKE OF THE APRIL GEORGIAN WRITERS' CONGRESS, NOTING THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS HAD TRIED TO CREATE PROBLEMS WHERE NONE EXISTED. MENTESHASHVILI CLEARLY HAD IN MIND GEORGIAN WRITER DZHAPARIDZE, WHO, DURING THE WRITERS' CONGRESS, STRONGLY CRITICIZED SUBSTITUTION OF RUSSIAN FOR GEORGIAN IN DISSERTATIONS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVANCED TEXTBOOKS. LATER IN THE CC PLENUM PROCEEDINGS, DZHAPARIDZE HIMSELF SPOKE AND, ACCORDING TO ZARYA VOSTOKA (JULY 27), NOTED THAT "SOME PROPOSITIONS IN MY SPEECH (TO THE WRITERS' CONGRESS) PERHAPS REQUIRE REVIEW, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT I WOULD TODAY FORMULATE THOSE PROPOSITIONS DIFFERENTLY."

8. COMMENT. THE LENGTH AND WIDE SCOPE OF SHEVARDNADZE'S SPEECH CONTRAST WITH THE MEAGER ATTENTION PAID HIM IN PRAVDA'S ACCOUNT OF THE GEORGIAN PLENUM (REFTEL). AND ZARYA VOSTOKA'S JULY 28 EDITORIAL ON THE PLENUM DOES NOT MENTION THE FIRST SECRETARY AT ALL. THESE INDICATORS SUGGEST THAT HIS PERSONAL STANDING WITH MOSCOW MAY BE IN QUESTION. EVEN ASSUMING THAT HIS POLITICAL HEALTH DOES NOT WORSEN, IF THE RUMORS OF VIOLENCE ARE EVEN

PARTIALLY TRUE, AND GIVEN HIS ESSENTIALLY UNCOMPROMISING
APPROACH, ONE WONDERS HOW LONG SHEVARDNADZE WILL BE ABLE
TO SURVIVE THE MESS IN GEORGIA.
STOESSEL

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